

proposal was received from State Government of Kerala during July, 1986 for assignment of forest land to the extent of 28588.159 hectares in Trichur Ernakulam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Quilon districts in favour of encroachers who were in possession of these lands prior to 01.01.77. Prior to receipt of this proposal in the Ministry, Public Interest Protection Association, Munnar had filed a CMP No. 33827/84 dated 30.05.85 in O.P. No. 10797 of 1984-A in the High Court of Kerala, seeking a stay of all proceedings of assignment of forest land or issue of Patta in Idukki District during pendency of the O.P. The Hon'ble Court had granted interim stay vide their order dated 30.05.85 which was made absolute vide their order dated 30.10.85. Hon'ble Kerala High Court have finally disposed of the O.P. on 3.4.91 stating that Government of India has to take appropriate action under Forest (Conservation) Act on the merit of the case. On receipt of the Judgement, the proposal was examined and State Government had been requested to furnish material information. Material information received from the State Government on 20.11.1991 is under consideration.

Effects of Air Pollution on Taj Mahal

778. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the steps taken by the Government to protect Taj Mahal from the pollutants emitted by several foundries situated near Agra and Mathura?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): The steps taken to protect TAJ MAHAL from pollutants are:

- (i) Two thermal power plants have been closed down in 1981.

- (ii) Agra railway station yard has been dieselised.
- (iii) Most of the foundries, have been shifted to a new area at HATHRAS ROAD.
- (iv) The Forest Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has created a green belt around TAJ MAHAL by plantation of trees.
- (v) The State Government is monitoring the pollution levels in Agra.
- (vi) The Archaeological Survey of India is constantly monitoring the ambient air around the TAJ MAHAL to assess the level of sulphur-di-oxide, suspended particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteorological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required.

[Translation]

Sale of Westland Helicopters

779. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell all the Westland helicopters being used by the Pawan Hans Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the